

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03037 020759Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EUR-12 SSM-03 AID-05 /098 W
-----046530 020803Z /11

P R 020650Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8155
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3037

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR LE IS
SUBJ: LEFTIST VIEWS ON THE ARMY.

1. EMBOFF MET JUNE 1 WITH MURABITUN OFFICIALS SAMIR
SABBAGH AND SINAN BARRAJ. SABBAGH, WHO DID MOST OF THE
TALKING, SAID THE FOLLOWING.

2. IF THE GOL WERE TO SEND LEBANESE ARMY UNITS SOUTH
NOW, THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT FIGHTERS THERE WOULD ENGAGE
THEM IN COMBAT AND THE LEBANESE UNITS WOULD DISINTEGRATE.
MOREOVER, THE MUSLIM SOLDIERS IN THE UNITS DESIGNATED TO GO
SOUTH WOULD NOT DO SO WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL
MOVEMENT.

3. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAD LOST CONFIDENCE IN GENERAL
KHOURY AND CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE ARMY WAS COMPLETELY
UNDER MARONITE DOMINATION AND NEEDED TO BE REBUILT
"STARTING FROM SCRATCH." UNTIL THIS WERE DONE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03037 020759Z

THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WOULD OPPOSE THE DESPATCH OF
LEBANESE ARMY UNITS SOUTH.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE QUESTION OF SENDING UNITS SOUTH
WAS ACADEMIC. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT HAD GOOD INFORMA-
TION THAT THE GOL WOULD NOT DO SO.

5. AS AN EXAMPLE OF INEQUITY, SABBAGH SAID THAT AN ALL CHRISTIAN UNIT HAD BEEN THE HONOR GUARD WHICH HAD SEEN SARKIS OFF TO LATAKIA AT BEIRUT AIRPORT ON MAY 31. ORIGINALLY, A MIXED UNIT WAS SUPPOSED TO SEE SARKIS OFF, BUT THE CHRISTIANS HAD REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. (DATT SAYS THAT REVIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF HONOR GUARD SHOWS THAT AT LEAST ONE MUSLIM OFFICER WAS INVOLVED.)

6. MUSLIM SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY WERE PROFOUNDLY DIS-SATISFIED WITH THEIR LOT. THEY BELIEVED THAT MARONITE SOLDIERS RECEIVED BETTER MEDICAL TREATMENT, MORE LENIENT DISCIPLINARY MEASURES, AND GENERALLY BETTER TREATMENT. RECENTLY MUSLIM SOLDIERS IN THE UNITS DESIGNATED TO GO SOUTH HAD COME TO SEE SABBAGH AND HAD ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO START TROUBLE SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO GO SOUTH. SABBAGH HAD, HOWEVER, ADVISED THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR UNITS AND BEHAVE.

7. SABBAGH AGAIN COMPLAINED THAT AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO LEBANON WAS WINDING UP WITH THE MARONITES. HE ALLEGED THAT THE AMERICAN MATERIEL WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO HENRY CHEHAB BARRACKS HAD BEEN TAKEN BACK TO YARZE. (EMBOFF DENIED THAT OUR AID WAS GOING TO MARONITES.)

8. TURNING TO THE PLO'S MAY 24 DOHA ANNOUNCEMENT,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03037 020759Z

SABBAGH SAID THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NEVER AGREE TO ABANDON THEIR ARMED PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON AND WOULD CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THIS PRESENCE BE ON THE BASIS OF THE CAIRO AGREEMENT. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANT OPPOSITION NOT ONLY WITHIN THE REJECTION FRONT, BUT ALSO WITHIN FATAH'S RANK AND FILE TO EVEN THE VAGUE PROMISES CONTAINED IN THE DOHA ANNOUNCEMENT.
LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT03037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780230-1022
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806104/aaaadlpo.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7770147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2151678
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFTIST VIEWS ON THE ARMY.
TAGS: MARR, MOPS, LE, IS, (SABBAGH, SAMIR), (BARRAJ, SINAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7770147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014